

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 118388 TOSEC 010128

EXDIS

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE, INFO MADRID, NATO, MAY 20,
FROM LONDON RPTD TO YOU:

QUOTE S E C R E T LONDON 07617

EXDIS /

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, SP, UK, NATO

SUBJECT: SPAIN AND NATO; GIBRALTAR

1. FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN BROUGHT UP THE QUESTION
OF SPANISH ASSOCIATION WITH NATO DURING TALK I HAD WITH
HIM MAY 19. CALLAGHAN SAID THAT BRITISH POSITION WAS
UNCHANGED, THAT IS, THEY WERE NOT PREPARED TO MOVE ON THE
ISSUE OF SPANISH ASSOCIATION WHILE FRANCO IS ON THE
SCENE. THE BRITISH WERE, HOWEVER, READY AND WILLING TO
PLAN WITH THE U.S. FOR A POST-FRANCO SCENARIO AND TO
TALK WITH MODERATE SPANISH LEADERS WHO MIGHT COME TO
PROMINENCE AFTER FRANCO LEAVES. I OBSERVED THAT VISIBLE
ENCOURAGEMENT OF MODERATE ELEMENTS WOULD BE DESIRABLE IN
PLANNING AHEAD FOR THE TRANSITION PERIOD IN SPAIN.
CALLAGHAN ELABORATED BY SAYING THAT A PROPOSAL IS NOW
UNDER STUDY IN THE FOREIGN OFFICE FOR SPECIFIC CONTACTS

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WITH MODERATE SPANISH LEADERS IN LONDON.

2. CALLAGHAN SAID THAT AMBASSADOR WIGGIN HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO CONSULT WITH AMBASSADOR STABLER WHEN BOTH OF THEM THOUGHT IT APPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM. HE CONTINUED THAT THE TWO AMBASSADORS MIGHT BE ASKED TO COME TO LONDON TO DISCUSS THEIR ESTIMATES OF THE SITUATION WITH U.S. AND UK EXPERTS.

3. IN THIS CONNECTION HE SAID THAT GIBRALTAR REMAINS A STUMBLING BLOCK IN ANGLO-SPANISH RELATIONS. HE FRANKLY DID NOT KNOW HOW THE GIBRALTAR PROBLEM COULD BE RESOLVED. HE STRESSED THE STRENGTH OF FEELING IN GIBRALTAR ABOUT CONTINUED ASSOCIATION WITH BRITAIN OBSERVING THAT "THEY ARE MORE BRITISH THAN WE ARE". BOTH HE AND HATTERSLEY, WHO WAS ALSO PRESENT, AGREED THAT THE NEXT GENERATION OF SPANISH LEADERS ARE LIKELY TO BE EVEN MORE MILITANT THAN THE PRESENT REGIME ABOUT GIBRALTAR. HATTERSLEY SAID THAT IT IS BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO DEAL WITH THE GIBRALTAR PROBLEM BY CARRYING ON LOW LEVEL OFFICIAL TALKS WITH THE SPANISH. IT WAS, IN HIS VIEW, IMPORTANT NOT TO ANTAGONIZE THE NEXT GENERATION OF SPANISH LEADERS OVER GIBRALTAR.

RICHARDSON UNQUOTE. INGERSOLL

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